

Washington County
Department of Social Services
Building a Foundation for a Better Community

The WCDSS Dispatch

Volume V / Issue 1

Winter 2008

We serve people, promote self-reliance, and provide safety by delivering quality services and developing community partnerships.

-WCDSS Mission Statement

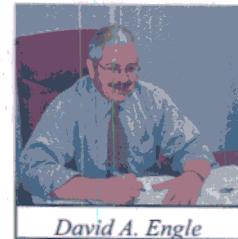


1,000 by '10
Get On Board
for
Foster Care



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Nothing matters more to a child than a place to call home. This is the meaning of the "Place Matters" theme that is the hallmark of Secretary Donald's administration. Our Secretary has been a child advocate throughout her professional career. She is seizing the opportunity as leader of our state agency to reform the state's foster care system as dramatically as we overhauled welfare programs ten years ago. Remember AFDC caseloads of 1,500 in 1996? Current TCA caseloads average around 320. We have a great opportunity to work with Secretary Donald to achieve a similar reduction in the foster care caseload.



David A. Engle

Three Place Matters strategies will reduce the foster care caseload and increase adoptions:

1. **Team Decision Making (TDM)** is a new approach in which our child welfare staff enlist support from the child's immediate and extended family, neighbors, foster parents, teachers, attorneys, everyone and anyone who can help a child stay safe in his/her home or a family member's home. All these people, including the child (when he/she is over eleven years of age or older) attend a meeting where a permanent, safe living arrangement is made. Child Support and FIA

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2007-2008 WASHINGTON COUNTY DSS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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Roland Smith, Vice-Chair

David T. Yohman, Secretary

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Dolores Harmon

John Miller

David D. Pool

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Board meetings are held the fourth
Monday of the month (September-June)
at 6:00 pm in the Washington County
DSS Board Room.

Wash. Co. Department of Social Services
122 N. Potomac St., Hagerstown, MD 21741
Phone: 240-420-2100 Fax: 240-420-2111

The Safe Place — Child Advocacy Center
24 N. Walnut Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740
Phone: 240-420-4300 Fax: 240-420-4339

The Family Center
920 W. Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Phone: 301-790-4002 Fax: 301-790-4007



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony Brown, Lt. Governor
Brenda Donald, Secretary
David A. Engle, Director

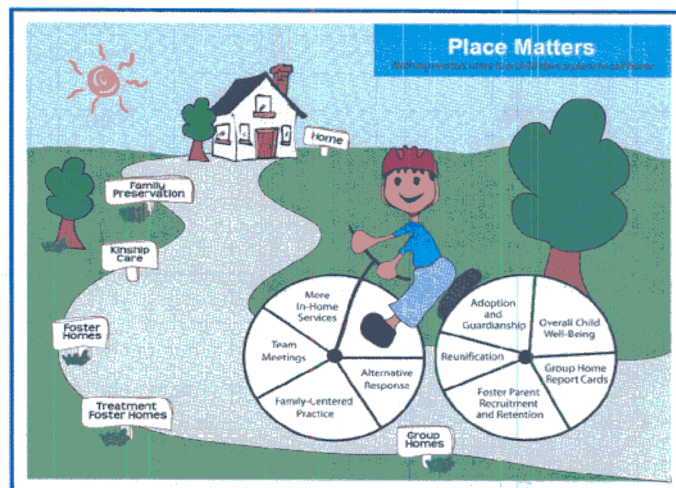
Director's Corner Continued

staff could be included in these meetings to address financial concerns. Tiffany Rexrode, our TDM Facilitator, leads these meetings. Helping her are Terry McSwain, Derek Getic, Nancy Hopkins, Steve White, Bruce McCarthy, Melissa Doyle, Mike Piercy and Kim Farmer. Since we began this approach in July 2007, our foster care caseload has dropped from 325 to 267!

2. **1000 in '10** is the goal of recruiting 1,000 new foster parents for Maryland's children by 2010. Locally we are advertising for foster parents on Your4State.com website and 92.1 Radio. If you know of anyone who might be willing to open his/her heart and home to our kids, please contact Loretta McGee, Nancy Hopkins or Julie Kreit.

3. **Alternative Response** is a new initiative that will allow CPS to respond differently to accepted reports based on the type and severity of the maltreatment. The goal will be to focus on family assessment and services that can improve parenting skills and family functioning while keeping children safe in their homes.

Stay tuned for more details of Maryland's child welfare revolution! It's an exciting time to change the lives of children for the better and forever! ♥



2008 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DAY

By Tiffany Bloyer, Personnel Officer

On Friday, April 18, 2008 the agency will celebrate Employee Recognition Day. You will not want to miss this year's event!

The guest speaker for this year's event is Rebecca Pace. Her keynote address will be *"Delivering Exceptional Customer Service in the Public Sector"*. Rebecca is a motivational speaker with extensive and progressive experience in all aspects of organizational development as both a manager and a trainer. The founder of Pace Communications, Rebecca has established business-oriented curriculum for seminars, and she has delivered seminars, workshops and keynote addresses to a variety of audiences on topics related to leadership, team development, coaching, time management, sexual harassment, diversity and collection techniques. Rebecca's goal is to help people excel in work, life and play through creative education.



Awards will be given to one employee in each of the four divisions in the following categories: Employee of the Year, Outstanding Supervisor, Outstanding Support Person, Outstanding Team Player, and Most Uplifting Award. One CQI Team will receive the Outstanding CQI Team Award and Outstanding Community Partner Awards (selected by Employee Recognition Team) will be presented.

A complimentary lunch will be provided. Please be sure to reserve your seat now as this will be one event you will not want to miss! See you there!♥

ELLEN ROBERTSON HAYES BOARD MEMBER

Ellen Robertson Hayes, Board Chair of the Washington County Board of Social Services, is employed as a Principal at Eastern Elementary School at the Washington County Board of Education. Mrs. Robertson Hayes has been a member of the Washington County Board of Social Services since 2004. ♥

1,000 by 2010

Do you know an individual or couple who really enjoys being around children? Perhaps they would consider becoming a foster parent. No matter where you work in the agency you can be a spokesperson for Maryland's need for foster parents. In the last four years Maryland lost more than 1,000 family foster homes. As a result, many children who would do better in family settings are living in group homes. While group care is appropriate in some cases, we would like to see as many children as possible living with caring adults in a family home.



DHR's Place Matters initiative operates under the belief that nothing matters more to a child than a place to call home. The 1,000 by 10 campaign aims to bolster the number of family foster homes by 1,000 by the end of 2010. You can make a difference in the life of a child by referring individuals to the Foster Parent Program. Interested individuals can contact a Resource Home worker at 240-420-2143. They can also click on Your4State.com and then click on the recruitment ad regarding the need for foster parents for additional information. Remember we all share responsibility for our community's children.♥

by Ann Pittman, Foster Care

VIEW FROM THE HOPEWELL EXPRESS



On September 21, 2007, Faye Stauch and Amber Crawford of the Family Investment JobReady Center took a ride on the Hopewell Express to see what its like first hand to travel the actual bus route. The Hopewell Express is a *free** transportation program that assists individuals who are seeking employment or are already working at the various centers located in the Hopewell Road area. The current route makes downtown stops at 1000 W. Washington St., the public library, the Sheetz on Cannon Ave., the post office on W. Franklin St. and at the intersection of Washington St. and Burhans Blvd. The route makes scheduled stops at Tractor Supply, FedEx, Staples, PetSmart,

Home Depot, and Lenox Distribution Centers. In addition to these stops, Hopewell Express drivers will pick up and drop off riders along this route. To receive a registration form and brochure for one of your clients, please contact the JobReady Center at x-2564. ♥

**For a limited time.*

By Amber Crawford, FIA

**Happy
Valentine's
Day**



Don't forget to set your clocks up ...
Daylight Savings Time Begins March 9, 2008

What's in The WCDSS Dispatch

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Diverse views are presented and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or the official policies of DHR and WCDSS.

Submission Information

Submissions for the June issue of *The WCDSS Dispatch* are due in writing to **Marty West** by **Tuesday, April 15, 2008**. All articles should go through the appropriate Communications Team member first.

NICOLE PRENTICE NAMED TOASTMASTER OF THE YEAR

By Tiffany Bloyer, Personnel Officer

At the December Toastmasters meeting at WCDSS, Nicole Prentice was presented a certificate as Toastmaster of the Year by David A. Engle, Director, for her service to the local chapter, WCDSS Wordsmiths. A Child Support Specialist, Ms. Prentice has been employed with WCDSS for eight years.

As the Vice President of Education, Nicole has provided the agenda/schedule of speakers and participants for each meeting. Additionally she has provided Toastmaster presentations at All Staff Meetings, made the room reservations and provided regular emails to all of her fellow Toastmasters regarding upcoming meetings and other events. Nicole has set a standard for others by presenting six speeches at the monthly meetings as she works towards her designation of "Competent Communicator."♥



ADULT SERVICES—AROUND THE UNIT

By Leo Brassard, Adult Services

Recently, the Adult Services Unit was invaded by a flying creature. Voices could be heard saying: It's a bird, it's a plane, no it's a bat.... Many staff members ran for cover while those of us attempted to catch the critter. The direction of travel seemed to originate from the FIP side of the second floor, then continued West towards Adult Services. During this time, many staff members were covering their heads to avoid being "nipped" by the "near-sighted" creature. Once the Early Warning System (EWS) was activated, the staff from the Adult Services side of the unit ventured into the east room of Adult Services to get a better view. This was short lived since many had to take refuge in Melinda Potter's office which immediately became a fall-out shelter. You might say, they became as "blind as a bat" to the rest of the event.



Meanwhile, on the other side of Adult Services, Supervisor Charles Breakall (like Superman), steps out of his office wearing none other than his Superman costume. The "S" on his costume stands for "Supervisor". Running with his box in hand, Superman Breakall, I mean Supervisor Breakall, intercepts the bat in mid-air with his box, then places it in a bag as his trophy, to the applause of Adult Services.♥

- ❑ Sloppy Joe/Steamer Lunch...February 29, 2008
- ❑ Employee Recognition Day...April 18, 2008
- ❑ Child Abuse Conference...April 29, 2008
- ❑ Spring Employee Picnic...May 20, 2008
- ❑ Agency Summer Picnic...August 12, 2008
- ❑ Fall Picnic...September 16, 2008
- ❑ Halloween Party...October 31, 2008
- ❑ November Craft Fair...November 5, 2008
- ❑ External Holiday Party...December 5, 2008
- ❑ Internal Holiday Party...December 12, 2008

Mark your
Calendar
Now!



STARTING ELECTRONIC BENEFITS GETS FASTER, EASIER

By Chris Long, FI Supervisor

Beginning on January 20, it became easier for DSS customers applying for electronic cash and food benefits to obtain their EBT benefit card. Once a case manager determines that a customer is eligible for benefits, the EBT card will be sent to their home. There are special provisions made for homeless and expedited Food Stamp cases. They will no longer have to come back to DSS for their cards. This will result in faster service. When they receive the card in the mail, all customers have to do is call 1-800-997-2222 Customer Service Call Center to set their PIN number. Also if a customer's card is lost, stolen or damaged, they can call the 800 number for service, not the local department. ♥

DAD'S CONNECTION

By Karen Christof, Family Center

The Washington County Family Center has received funding from the Department of Human Resources to provide services specifically for fathers. The program will keep the same name as the earlier fatherhood program known as "Dad's Connection". Services will be targeted to fathers of children attending the Family Center but will serve others as well. The program is designed to offer support and education that will increase the father's understanding of the importance of a father in a child's life, encourage consistent involvement in their child's life, improve their understanding of child development and provide mediation and counseling services for both parents.

Funding for the program is secure through FY 2010. Three new staff will be hired to develop and implement the program.♥

"Bienvenidos!" = "Welcome"

By Mike Piercy, Family Services Supervisor

Bienvenidos as many know is the Spanish word for "Welcome!" **Bien** means "good" or "well" and "**venidos**" is the past tense of the Spanish word "venir" and means "**came**." It is very similar to the English **well/come or welcome**.

The Washington County DSS would like to say "**Bienvenidos**" to the new Spanish language program **Rosetta Stone** that will soon be accessible through the server to assist DSS employees improve their Spanish skills. Spanish is the second most popularly used language in the United States. With the **Rosetta Stone** software, management and employees will soon be able to learn the Spanish language at their own speed. ♥

QUALITY COUNCIL NEWS

By Dan Moreland, FIA

The Quality Council has implemented the use of a "Suggestion Box Grid" to keep track of all the items submitted into the suggestion box. The grid will be available on the Intranet under CQI & Strategic Plan. It will include the date the form was received, the sender, the suggestion, the action taken, and any follow up, if needed. This will allow the employees of WCDSS to view all of the suggestions that are directed to the Quality Council. The Quality Council welcomes all of the suggestions submitted. See the 2007 Suggestion Box Grid on Page 7.♥



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	2007	CQI SUGGESTION	GRID	
Date Form Rec'd	Sender	Suggestion	Action Taken	Follow up needed
March 19, 2007	Mary Taylor	Expedited claims – wants next day for workers to write up cases.	Data to be collected/no significant change to numbers. Staff surveyed by supt. – no change at this time. Thank you letter from Ros dated 3/20/07.	No
April 2, 2007	Kim Smith/Becky Rice	Visitation Schedule for Foster Care Visiting Room	Room schedule put online. Thank you letters to Kim & Becky from Ros dated 5/31/07.	No
May 14, 2007	BJ Dunn	Use Potomac Center gas pumps	Exec Staff checked with Potomac Ctr. We are not able to use at this time. Thank you letter sent to BJ.	No
July 25, 2007	Anonymous	Dress Code for women too relaxed; men should not wear ties from Memorial Day until Labor Day without regard to temperature.	Exec Staff reviewed/decided to make no changes as DHR is creating a more stringent dress code that we may have to implement.	No
July 25, 2007	BJ Dunn	Additional locations to fuel state cars	Exec Staff checked and State Police barracks, State Highway and prison continues to be our only option. Thank you letter to BJ sent.	No
July 25, 2007	Anonymous	Improving escort services from Child Support to 1 st floor.	Child Support has added a Green Thumb employee to provide escort services 20 hours per week.	No
July 26, 2007	Anonymous	FIP window and ACFS window	Ros and Melissa discussed—staffing separate windows is an issue. No PINs available.	Refer "triage" idea to committee studying reception.
August 9, 2007	Anonymous	Job Center scheduling TCA customers instead of workers	Referred to FI/Ros	Yes—FI updates to Quality Council
August 9, 2007	Anonymous	Expedited POC vouchers for TCA applicants	Referred to FI/Ros	Yes—FI updates to Quality Council
September 20, 2007	Anonymous	All departments start answering phones at the same time	Exec Staff discussed—official agency hours 8-4:30. All divisions to follow.	No
September 28, 2007	BJ Dunn	Adding beepers for FI intake workers	Thank you letter to BJ 10/18/07. Referred to FI/Ros—no budget to supply all staff who are paged with electronic equipment.	No
October 23, 2007	Mark Conrad	Need a back-up cab company to transport our clients when Hall's isn't answering phones or faxes. Hall's has become increasingly unreliable to DSS and the clients we serve.	Thank you letter to Mark from Ros dated 12/5/07. Referred to Administration.	No—Finance has identified a 2 nd taxi service—A-1 Transportation. Staff have been notified.
November 26, 2007	Marilyn Eavey	Different units "own names"	Referred to FI and CS AD's.	Yes

CHILD SUPPORT NEWS

By Liz Tewey, Child Support

Welcome Helen Baker

In October 2007, Helen Baker joined the staff of WCDSS. Helen is an employee of the Department of Aging, Senior Employment Program, working in partnership with WCDSS, and has been placed in the Child Support Unit.

Helen was born in Nurnburg, Germany in the 1930's. Her father was a conductor for a passenger train, and she moved throughout Germany several times during her youth. When Helen was a young adult, she worked as an au pair for a family in England. She returned to Germany, married, and raised six children, four sons and two daughters, who were born between 1954 and 1966. In Germany, she worked as a sales person in retail stores.

Helen married her second husband, an American military person, and moved with her family to Washington County / Boonsboro in 1971. Five of her six children have returned to Germany, and one son resides in South Carolina. Helen has ten grandchildren ranging in age from 9 – 25, one great grandchild, and another on the way.



Helen is currently a resident of Hagerstown. She has a strong work ethic, having spent many years employed with Sheraton Hotels, Ryan's Restaurant, and Weis Markets. She currently works at WCDSS Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Her duties with the Child Support Unit include escorting customers to and from the Main Lobby to the Child Support Lobby, mail sorting and distribution, and light filing. She has also become affectionately known as the "shredding queen." If any division has old documents to shred, please contact Helen at ext. 2617.♥

Welcome David Conway

Please welcome the new WCDSS Security Guard, David Conway. David is employed with Trinity Protection Services, and has been placed with our agency on a part-time basis – Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. His primary duty station is in the Child Support Lobby on the Terrace Level. David also performs parking lot patrol and escorts customers between the lobbies, if necessary.



David was born and raised in Clear Spring, and is currently a resident of Hagerstown. He graduated from Clear Spring High School in 1988, and attended Mount Union College in Ohio for three years. David's college major was Criminology, but he also played football in the position of defensive tackle. His claim to fame in college was scoring two touchdowns, after running for 47 and 62 yards.

David worked for ten years with the Maryland State Prison System, spending three years with the Maryland House of Corrections Annex in Jessup, and seven years with the Maryland Correctional Institute in Hagerstown. He is also currently employed as a full-time security guard on the graveyard shift at Citi Financial. David has three children, a daughter and two sons. He enjoys cooking and has several other hobbies.♥



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

SARAH ZWARTON

Sarah last worked at Citicorp Credit Services as a Credit Risk Specialist. She just recently celebrated her five year Wedding Anniversary with her husband Dan. Sarah has two adorable sons, Daniel (3 ½ years old) and Matthew (17 months). Sarah claims they are the love of both she and her husband's lives, and their world pretty much revolves around their children. Her hobbies include just hanging out with her husband and her boys, going shopping or to Blockbuster. She is a "huge" Friends fan. She really enjoys working here, states everyone is very nice, and is learning so much. She is very excited to have started her career at the Department of Social Services.♥



AMBER J. CRAWFORD

Amber began employment with WCDSS in 7/07. She is originally from Lake Jackson, TX, about 45 minutes south of Houston and 10 minutes from the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Amber has worked in distribution centers for both Wal-Mart in Texas and PetSmart here in Hagerstown in the field of human resources. She graduated from Baylor University in Waco, TX with a Bachelor's of Business Administration majoring in Human Resources and a minor in Corporate Communication. While at Baylor, Amber was a member of the track and field team participating in shot put, discus, hammer and the weight throw. Baylor University is also where she met her husband, Billy, who played football for the Baylor Bears. Amber has a twin brother, Ronnie. Amber's hobbies include singing in her church's choir, video games, knitting, watching HGTV, reading fashion magazines, and playing with her Yorkshire Terrier, Jasmine.♥



JENNIFER CANBY

Jennifer, a graduate of Shepherd University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice, currently resides in Shepherdstown, WV. Sports are her favorite pastime both as a spectator and as a former collegiate athlete. Jennifer devotes her spare time to drawing, painting, biking and fishing. She is very enthused about being accepted aboard the FI Team and is thankful for the opportunity to work with such hospitable staff.♥



JACKLYN BETKE

Jacklyn, a graduate of Shepherd University with a Bachelor's degree in Business, has her Series 6/63 license. Jacklyn lives in Hagerstown with her husband Alex. A native of Brooklyn, NY, she is a Yankees' fan and enjoys going to their games. Jacklyn enjoys traveling, movies, shopping, reading, the theater, and other cultural art activities. Jacklyn is excited about joining the FI Team.♥



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES *Continued*

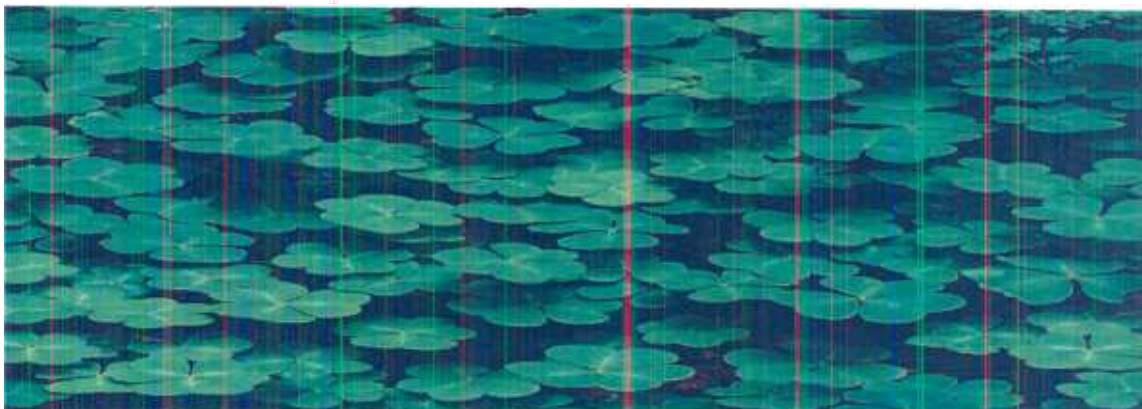
TASHA POWELL

Tasha received her Bachelors degree from Frostburg State University majoring in Sociology and Political Science. Before joining WCDSS, her career was in retail management as a Visual Merchandiser and manager with Reebok International, spending much of her time traveling from store to store within the Mid-Atlantic. Tasha loves it here in FI, and truly loves her weekends!! Her goal is to help those in the community that she grew up in and care about so much. But in the short term, Tasha states she will strive to keep her case files off the floor and her office somewhat organized!!! Tasha recently purchased her first home in Hagerstown with her boyfriend and cat. She is looking forward to going back to school to obtain her Master's Degree. In her spare time, she endures the torment of being a local sports fan of the Hagerstown Suns, Baltimore Orioles and the Washington Redskins. Tasha looks forward to a long and fulfilling career in Washington County and has enjoyed getting to know everyone here.♥



SHANNON FRANKENBERRY

Shannon Frankenberg, her husband and three boys (ages 6, 4, and 21 months) live in Allegany County, Maryland is a new CPS Intake Worker. She transferred to WCDSS from DHMH in Cumberland, where she was an addictions counselor for over 9 years. Shannon holds a Masters in Human Services from Capella University, Bachelors degree in Human Resources from Geneva College and an AA in Human Services from Allegany College in Maryland. Shannon states she brings the ability to build rapport with others and to openly communicate. One of her greatest assets is her ability and willingness to be a team player. One evening Shannon was looking at the WCDSS website and it identified our employees as being our greatest asset. Shannon writes she thought this was awesome and decided to explore opportunities with WCDSS and a new work environment that valued their employees, that would create a challenge for her as well as promote growth. Her personal goals at DSS are to jump in and learn her job well so she can be productive in protecting children in Washington County. She is also interested in exploring a degree in social work once she is settled in at DSS.♥



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES *Continued from page 10*

JOYCENE RAY

Joycene Ray has lived in Zullinger, PA for 24 years. She worked at the Potomac Center in Hagerstown for seven years before coming to work at DSS in the Finance Office as a Fiscal Accounts Clerk II. It has been a very pleasant experience working here. Joyce has two daughters, and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren who love to go to Hagerstown City Park to feed the ducks and enjoy the outdoors. Her hobbies include a love to travel, landscaping, and shopping.♥



KIMBELRY LAY

Kimberly began her career at WCDSS in January 2008. Kimberly previously lived near Harrisburg, PA and worked as a nursing home social worker. In her spare time, Kimberly enjoys hiking with her energetic year-old yellow lab.♥



LISA DeLEE

Originally from New York, Lisa DeLee, relocated to Hagerstown in August 2007, along with her spouse of 21 years and their 2 children. Lisa was hired at WCDSS on 1/30/08. Previously, she was employed by the Hempstead School district for 21 years in the benefits department. Lisa is a graduate of Adelphi University, located in Garden City, NY, where she received her Bachelor's degree in Social Science. Lisa intends to continue her education by pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown in September. She is looking forward to an outstanding career with DSS.♥



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES *Continued*

SARAH DIETZ

Sarah Dietz is the newest addition to The Washington County Family Center. Sarah was hired as an In-Home Interventionist whose role is to provide services to children and families within their home. The goal of her interventions is to reduce or eliminate barriers ultimately allowing the family to obtain services at the Family Center. Sarah comes to The Family Center with a diverse range of experience ranging from her work at San Mar Children's Home to her internships at DJJ and The Family Center. She also has volunteered her time at Mary's Pregnancy Center, Head Start of Shippensburg, PA, The Health Department Addictions Unit, and within Family Preservation and Foster Care Units at the Department of Social Services. Sarah received her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Shippensburg University and plans to attend graduate school in August 2008. Sarah believes that her friendly, outgoing personality is her strongest asset which she plans to utilize in serving the families of Washington County.♥



MELANIE REINKE

Melanie is the newest addition to Safe Place Child Advocacy Center. Melanie is currently the Child and Family Therapist whose primary role is to engage children and any secondary victims in crisis-based mental health treatment following an indicated or substantiated finding of child abuse.



Melanie comes to Safe Place with many years of experience, from her time at the Grafton School, to her time at CASA as a Child and Adolescent Therapist. Melanie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice from the University of Delaware and a Masters Degree from West Virginia University in Counseling Psychology. Melanie believes that her current professional direction is a result of the many positive experiences she had while working with children and their families at CASA. Melanie hopes to continue to grow

and gain knowledge in the treatment of traumatized children and families so that she may provide the best service possible to this population.♥

NEW APPOINTMENTS

By Tiffany Bloyer, Personnel Officer

L. BRUCE MASSEY

L. Bruce Massey has been promoted to the position of Assistant Director for Administration. Mr. Massey's responsibilities will include supervising the finance office, budget and contract management, procurement, human resources and information technology. Mr. Massey has worked for the Washington County Department of Social Services as Director of Human Resources and Public Relations since September 2000. With bachelors and masters degrees from Salisbury State College, Mr. Massey has twenty-six years of governmental knowledge and experience. He was previously employed with the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation where he was Unemployment Insurance Supervisor for ten years. Mr. Massey is a member of the Cumberland Valley Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).♥



TRANSFERS, RETIREMENTS, WEDDINGS/BIRTHS

TIFFANY L. BLOYER

Tiffany L. Boyer is our Personnel Officer. Ms. Boyer's responsibilities will include recruitment, salary and benefit administration, and employer and employee relations. Ms. Boyer is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelors Degree in Applied Behavioral Science. She holds a Masters of Science Degree in Human Resource Management from the University of Maryland. She was previously the Personnel Officer with the Frederick County Department of Social Services. She is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management.♥



KELLEY BARRON

Kelley Barron joined the Child Support unit in September '07. She is in training to be a child support specialist and is currently working the front desk, processing court paperwork, answering "hot calls", and learning the establishment functions of the division. She has been an employee of the department for thirteen years in Family Investment where she performed case management tasks for the food stamp, medical assistance, TEMHA, TCA, and POC programs. Kelley has two sons: Ryan, 18, is a Private First Class in the United States Army and Bradley, 16, is a sophomore at Boonsboro High School. Bradley and Kelley share their Boonsboro home with three cats (Allie, Prissy and Tiara), a bala shark, a ball python, and a half time Shih-Tzu dog named Buddy. She is originally from Garrett County and visits her mother and father there regularly. She spends her free time playing computer games, watching TV/DVDs and cleaning house and loves to shop. She served on the Maryland Charities Campaign committee this fall and is a member of Toastmasters. Kelley says, "It is very nice to be learning something new! We Gemini's are restless souls and are always ready for a change".♥



- ♥ Barbara Whitehall was married on 12/7/07.
- ♥ Anne Seibert retired on 12/31/07.
- ♥ Brittany Tesla transferred from CPS/CAU to Foster Care on 1/2/08

Welcome New Babies

Sara Brannen - Baby Hailey Madison born 5/17/07
Tiffany Bell - Baby Addison Grace born 9/18/07
Tiffany Lowe - Baby Hayleigh born 10/10/07
Tiffany Reiff - Baby Kelsey born 10/23/07
Cristina Firescu-Williams - Baby Aleyah born 12/3/07



PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE SYMPOSIUM

By Tiffany Bloyer, Personnel Officer

On Saturday, January 26, 2008, the Mid-Atlantic Exchange Clubs' Foundation for the Prevention of Child Abuse held a symposium for the Prevention of Child Abuse at the Sleep Inn and Suites in Hagerstown, MD. An expert panel addressed current issues and answered questions about the prevention of child abuse and how it impacts the community and children of Washington County. The expert panel included: Washington County Circuit Court Judge John McDowell, Assistant State's Attorney for Washington County Gina Cirincion, Detective Shane Blakenship with the Hagerstown Police Department, Director of the Washington County Department of Social Services David Engle, Director of Emergency Medicine at the Washington County Hospital Dr. Steve Kotch, Program Manager of Safe Place Teresa Thorn, and Executive Director of the Parent Works Program Jane Abrams.

Washington County has the fourth highest "indicated" abuse rate in the state. WCDSS staff investigated 1,600 reports of abuse or neglect in 2007, and assessed the risk of maltreatment for more than 4,000 children. ♥

"TOUGH TALK" FAMILY HEALTH FORUM

By Diane Eves, Child Support

Last year Washington County Hospital and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition co-sponsored a very successful mother-daughter health forum at Robinwood Medical Center, and this year it will be a "family affair." Teen boys and girls with their parents or adult guardians are invited to attend the Family Health Forum at Robinwood on May 8, 2008 from 4:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. The forum provides an opportunity for teens and adults to initiate conversations on the topic of teen pregnancy, STI's, and other teen health and social issues. In addition to the "tough talk," there will be lots of fun things as well, including a car show and sports clinic, pottery and jewelry making, massages and make-up, and lots of informational exhibits in the marketplace.

The evening also features a catered meal, guest speaker Dr. David Solberg, and an original interactive drama produced by the Authentic Community Theatre. For more information, registration forms, or questions, contact Diane Eves or Karen Christof. ♥

	Program Agenda
4:30 pm	Registration, Activities and Marketplace (arrive any time between 4:30 pm and 6:00 pm)
6:00 pm	Dinner Dimensions Dining and Catering
6:30 pm	Welcome: Kia Tisdale, MD Women's Specialty Associates
6:40 pm	Teen Pregnancy in Washington County Dave Solberg, MD Capital Women's Care
7:30 pm	Let's Flesh It Out! play Authentic Community Theatre

Years of Service

Washington County DSS Celebrates Employee's Years of Service

On Tuesday, January 29, 2008 the Washington County Department of Social Services recognized thirty-three employees for having completed five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, and thirty years of service to the State of Maryland and the Washington County Department of Social Services.

The employees received certificates and years of service pins for their commitment to the Agency and the State of Maryland. David A. Engle, WCDSS Director, congratulated the employees by referencing their contributions "in creating a work environment that fosters growth, teamwork, open communication, respect and in which all employees are recognized for their value as the organization's greatest asset."



5 Years-Left to Right-Jenel Keller and Sherry Keeney



10 Years-Left to Right-Front-Star Blickenstaff and Shana Matthews-Back-Michell Wickless, Tricia Greathead, Karen Christof (not pictured-Ann Dillard)



15 years-Left to Right-Laurie Taylor, Kathie Duffey, Dan Moreland, Sheri Lehman, Tina Wolfensberger (not pictured-Stephanie Andrews, Ruth Fuller, Bruce